



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

PIMA COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL CENTER
115 N. CHURCH AVE., 2nd FLOOR, Suite 231, TUCSON, AZ 85701-1317
520-724-8661, FAX 520-724-8171

JAN LESHER
County Administrator

March 9, 2026

The Honorable Katie Hobbs
Governor, State of Arizona
1700 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: **State Land Auction for the Proposed Copper World Mine**

Dear Governor Hobbs:

It is my understanding that the 160-acre State land auction for the proposed Copper World mine will not stop or be deferred. An article in the Arizona Daily Star suggests that there is a belief the mine will proceed regardless, and that allowing the auction to proceed will result in buffering homes and schools from the tailings. Pima County does not share this position based on the following:

1. This proposed mining project has not yet been "sanctioned" by Hudbay's Board and their new partner Mitsubishi, a decision that is required per Canadian security regulations and can only be made after review of a feasibility study, which has also not yet been completed. The sanctioning decision is the deciding factor regarding whether or not the mine will proceed to construction.
2. The auction of this 160-acre parcel of State Trust land is key to the feasibility of this mine as it provides Hudbay potential access to 480 acres of private land to the north. If they successfully access those 480 acres, the school and homes would be closer to the tailings than any small buffer that Hudbay is saying the 160-acre parcel would provide without any assurances.

Pima County is aware of the significant history of copper mining in Pima County. We understand the importance of copper production and support responsible copper mining in appropriate locations. Pima County has collaborative relationships with two large mines west of Green Valley and has supported their expansion. Unlike the Santa Rita Mountains and its foothills, these other areas hold significant reserves for continued copper production and are much less significant from an ecological perspective.

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Pima County has also previously supported the reopening of an underground copper mine in the mountains north of Tucson based on a willingness by the mine owners to meaningfully mitigate impacts to Pima County's Conservation Lands System.

It remains Pima County's position that proceeding with this land auction could facilitate a foreign mining company impacting our community by destroying irreplaceable natural and cultural areas, draining an aquifer that is already experiencing declining water levels and subsidence, and degrading the quality of our air and water.

The mines already operating in Pima County have sufficient reserves to continue expanding copper production in areas more appropriate for mining. I again respectfully request consideration of delaying the land auction until the final feasibility study is completed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jan Lesher', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Jan Lesher

Pima County Administrator

Attachment – February 6, 2026, letter requesting deferral of the 160-acre State land auction.

c: Robyn Sahid, Arizona State Land Commissioner
Carmine DeBonis Jr., Deputy County Administrator
Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator
Chad Kasmar, Deputy County Administrator
Scott DiBiase, Director, Department of Environmental Quality
Kris Gade, Director, Conservation Lands and Resources
Eric Shepp, Director, Regional Flood Control District
Nicole Fyffe, Senior Advisor, County Administrator's Office
Michael Racy, Racy Associates, Inc.



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JAN LESHER
County Administrator

February 6, 2026

The Honorable Katie Hobbs
Governor, State of Arizona
1700 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: **Application No. 53-122457-00-100 Copper World, Inc**

Dear Governor Hobbs:

Pima County continues to oppose development of the proposed Copper World mining project south of Tucson, including the sale of 160 acres of State Trust land for mine tailings. Today, State Land Commissioner Robyn Sahid notified us that the sale is moving forward with the auction scheduled for April 29th and the required public notices to be published next week. Hubday has not yet completed the final feasibility study for Copper World.

I respectfully request that the public notices be rescinded and the auction of the 160 acres of State Trust land be deferred until the final feasibility study is completed and reviewed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jan Leshner", is written over a horizontal line.

Jan Leshner
Pima County Administrator

JKL/anc

c: Robyn Sahid, Arizona State Land Commissioner
Carmine DeBonis Jr., Deputy County Administrator
Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator
Kris Gade, Director, Conservation Lands and Resources
Eric Shepp, Director, Regional Flood Control District
Nicole Fyffe, Senior Advisor, County Administrator's Office
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